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Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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SUMMER MEALS AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SUMMER PROGRAMS

PHOENIX - State schools chief Tom Horne is announcing today the implementation of the Arizona Department of Education Health and Nutrition Services Summer Food Service Program. This program ensures that nutritious meals and snacks are provided free to low income children so they can continue to thrive and learn in a safe environment during the summer months.

“More than 500 schools provide free and reduced meals to Arizona school children during the school year,” Horne stated. “The Summer Food Service Program, administered through the Arizona Department of Education, is working to make sure that these same children are provided the same services during the summer months.”

The Summer Food Service Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is the largest federal resource available for local programs that combine meal time with recreational and educational activities.

Horne added: “Our responsibility to kids doesn’t end when school lets out. Kids who get enough to eat and have safe activities to participate in during the summer are less likely to get into trouble. Our summer meals program is a building block in the community for healthy, happy kids who are ready to learn.”

Eligible sponsors such as non-profit organizations, schools and local governments serve nutritious meals and snacks free to low-income children during the summer months. Summer programs are located at approved sites that are either in low-income areas or serve a group of children, most of whom are low-income.

To find out about the Summer Food Program in Arizona, contact Health and Nutrition Services 602-542-8700. To find a summer food location near you, call 1-800-352-3792 for outside Maricopa County, 602-263-8856 for locations within Maricopa County.

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